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GHS/OCD Celebrates World Tsunami Awareness Day

Today, the Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD), following a worldwide initiative through the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), celebrate "World Tsunami Awareness Day".

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed November 5, 2020 as World Tsunami Awareness Day to promote a global culture of tsunami awareness. Tsunamis are rare but can affect many people, especially those living in coastal communities across multiple countries. Awareness, education, early warning systems, and detection can save lives.

This year, World Tsunami Awareness Day promotes target (e) of the "Sendai Seven Campaign", which encourages countries and communities to have national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in place to save more lives against disasters by the end of 2020.

UNISDR advised that by the year 2030, an estimated 50 percent of the world's population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms, and tsunamis. Having plans and policies in place to reduce tsunami impacts will help to build more resilience and protect populations at risk.

GHS/OCD continues to encourage the community to build their general understanding of how and where to evacuate before a wave strikes. By recognizing the evacuation areas across the island, residents can build a more resilient community. Use Tsunami Awareness Day to have discussions with family and friends about how to prepare for a tsunami, recognize the Tsunami Evacuation Route signs and Safe Assembly Area signs in your area and visit the following links for more information on how to prepare for tsunamis:

- <https://www.unisdr.org/tsunamiday>
- <http://www.ghs.guam.gov/tsunamis>
- <https://www.ready.gov/tsunamis>

For more information, contact GHS/OCD Tsunami Specialist, Denille Calvo at (671) 475-9600 or via email at denille.calvo@ghs.guam.gov.

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